

The Centaurian Sentinel

5

Via SolarCom

BABYLON 5 EDITION

3 Commercial Credits

BABYLON 5 TAKES MANHATTAN

Creation Entertainment, the group that is infamous for their *Star Trek* extravaganzas, held their annual salute to *Star Trek* and Science Fiction in New York City November 25-27. Major guests included Avery Brooks, Nichelle Nichols, and Terry Farrell. I decided to attend the convention on Saturday, hooked on the promise to see Mira Furlan, who was scheduled to appear on Friday and Saturday. What I had experienced that day was 50% BABYLON 5! The guests lined-up for that day included Furlan, Farrell, Max Grodenchik, David Gerrold, Peter David and Howard Gordon. Gordon was unable to attend, of the remaining six guests three of them made presentations based on BABYLON 5.

After late morning appearances by Nichols and Grodenchik, Gordon was scheduled to speak. Since he was a no-show I had the opportunity to run up to the dealer rooms on the 18th floor to see if any BABYLON 5 merchandise existed. Before entering the "toy rooms" I had spotted David Gerrold and his son stationed behind a table that was covered with his published works, including copies of the script for "Believers". He was also selling his autograph for \$1.00 each, with all profits going to an AIDS program. I had him sign a copy of "Believers" and a couple of Tribble trading cards, a bargain at any price. I didn't bother him with too many questions since he was to be on stage in about 20 minutes.

I quickly browsed through the dealer tables, asking if anything BABYLON 5 might be available. My only find was a t-shirt, a couple of stills (that were going fast), and various slides.

I made it back down to the ballroom on the first floor in time for Gerrold's appearance. Expecting that he would be speaking on *Trek* and Tribbles, as the promotions had hyped his appearance, I was surprised when he went on to speak about his involvement with BABYLON 5. He had just turned in a script to J. Michael Straczynski, with a tentative title of "Expectations". Without giving any spoilers away, he described it as an episode that involves Susan Ivanova on her day off, and includes a part for Warren Keffler.

He went on to speak about his story "Believers" and how his son had influenced it. He also joked about a line that was cut out of the original draft regarding a conversation that the sick child's parents were having with

him about when he was first hatched. "You know that when you were born we had the option of keeping you or eating you." When Joe had asked me why I included that line I told him, 'Because you'll need something to cut from the script'."

He spoke highly of Michael O'Hare and spoke of Sinclair's future involvement in a second season episode when he contacts Michael Garibaldi. He also discussed Captain Sheridan and that his past will be explored in future episodes (a critique from the audience was that Sheridan smiled too much, the reverse of what was said about Sinclair).

He was against giving away plot lines and mentioned that the morale on the BABYLON 5 sets was the best he saw on a television show in 27 years.

Gerrold mentioned that he will be writing two issues of the BABYLON 5 comic book. The story which involves G'Kar and Garibaldi originally was written as a script, but Straczynski felt that it would have been too long for an hour episode.

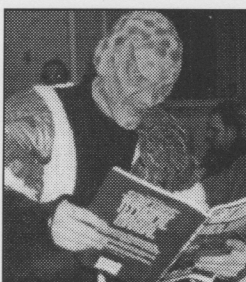
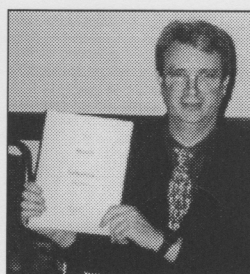
When he was asked about the cost of an average episode he compared BABYLON 5's \$700,000 budget per show to *Voyager* and *Deep Space Nine* who spend \$2,000,000 per episode. "You can make

almost three BABYLON 5 episodes for the cost of one *Star Trek* episode."

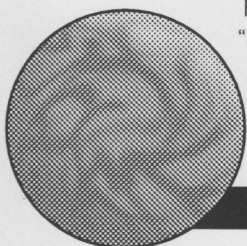
Gerrold closed saying that there will not be a sequel to "The Trouble With Tribbles."

Peter David, hyped as a *Star Trek* novelist, was up next. To everyone's amazement he had a slide presentation of the production of his BABYLON 5 episode "Soul Mates". David started off the show with a slide that showed the overnight ratings for the premiere episode of the second season, and how they had jumped 17% - 100% from the previous four weeks ratings in different parts of the country. He also showed a slide of a bulletin board titled "B5 Buzz: Messages from the Internet" that posted online comments from fans that the show's cast and crew would read daily.

The slide show followed the progression of the creation of an episode from the actors viewpoint - from make-up, to rehearsals, to the actual filming. The slides included the make-up sequence of Bill Mumy's character Lennier. Each episode would take Mumy 1 1/2 hours to get made-up. A new pair of ears and



BABYLON 5 at Creation - clockwise from top: Mira Furlan takes the stage; David Gerrold holding his "Believers" script; Peter David reading *The Centaurian Sentinel*; an unidentified Narn.



continued on page 6

BABYLON 5 NOVELS

Dell is currently planning to release three BABYLON 5 novels early next year. The stories are canonical to the BABYLON 5 universe and are set to take place during the second season.

The first novel titled "Voices" is by John Vornholt and will be on the shelves in February. "Voices" involves Talia Winter and Michael Garibaldi in a Psi Corp adventure. Vornholt is also working on the third novel, titled "Blood Oath," which should be available by early summer. According to Vornholt "Blood Oath" will take place on the Narn Homeworld. "I'm not big on giving away the plots of books in advance, although G'Kar dies in the first chapter," he told *The Centaurian Sentinel*.

The second novel, titled "Accusations," is by Lois Tilton and is scheduled for May. It incorporates a plot point which J. Michael Straczynski introduced that is part of the story arc. She gave The Centauri Sentinel the following description of her novel, "Briefly, the story is set off by an old friend of Ivanova's, a suspected terrorist from Mars Colony who comes to Babylon 5 and is murdered on the station. Ivanova is implicated, and she and Garibaldi have to untangle a complicated knot of conspiracies in order to get at the truth and clear her name."

Both Vornholt and Tilton are experienced writers who are involved with the series of *Star Trek* generated books. It is hoped that the success of these novels will influence Dell to publish other BABYLON 5 stories. ★

DATA REFERENCES

Following are recently published BABYLON 5 related articles:

Babylon Revisited (series article), Edward Gross, page 50; *Creating Babylon* (effects article), Ron Magid, page 54, Cinescape, Vol. 1, No. 2, November 1994.
Mind Reader (Andrea Thompson article), Craig W. Chrissinger, page 55; *Bloody Double* (Patrica Tallman article), Pat Jankiewicz, page 59, Starlog, No. 209, December 1994.
Babylon 5 Right on Course (series article), Glenn Kenny, TV Guide, Vol. 42, No. 45, Issue #2171, November 5, 1994, page 32.

MORE ON BABYLON 5 STUFF

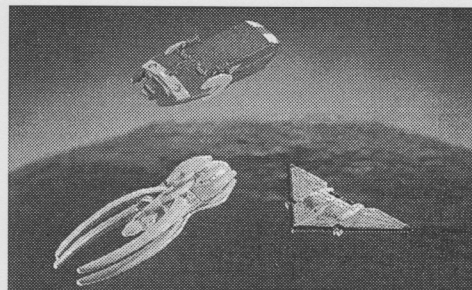
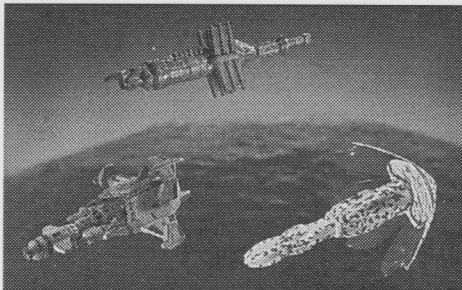
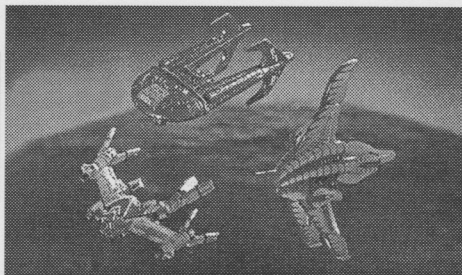


Photo courtesy of Action Figure News & Toy Review.

Following in the line of its *Star Wars* and *Star Trek* space vehicle series, Lewis Galoob Toy, Inc. is introducing a new line of Micro Machines – four sets of BABYLON 5 space crafts (see photo above). Each set which contains three ships is suppose to appear on shelves this month or early next year. There is no word if all the ships will be included in a deluxe boxed set that contains a bonus ship, similar to the other series.

A hand-held BABYLON 5 game by MicroGames should be available shortly. According to J. Michael Straczynski its content will be non-violent, as the goal of the game will be to have the Babylon 5 station collect damaged ships.

Home videos of the first season episodes are due to be released in the United States early next year, with letterbox format laserdiscs to follow.

Videos are currently available in Europe, Australia and Japan. A laserdisc version of the BABYLON 5 pilot, "The Gathering," with Japanese subtitles, is currently available from Japan.

An interactive BABYLON 5 CD-ROM is in the works for early next year. The comprehensive guide to the BABYLON 5 universe will cover all facets of the series and will be produced by Richard Compton. It will follow the story arc of the series and will include encoded sections that will be unlocked only when the correct keyword is entered.

A limited edition BABYLON 5 CD soundtrack may still be available. The album is composed by Christopher Franke and includes liner notes by Straczynski. Call the Creative Musicians Coalition at 1-800-882-4262 for availability (Sonic Images # SI 8402-2). ★



The Centaurian Sentinel

Data File No. 4

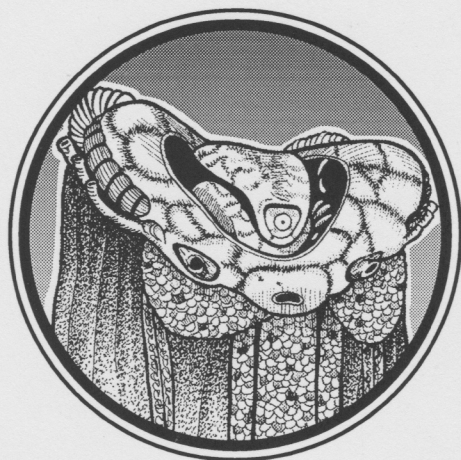


The Centaurian Sentinel is a newsletter dedicated to J. Michael Straczynski's television series BABYLON 5, and a forum for all beings who appreciate Science Fiction. ©December 1994 by Michael Zmuda. All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part without written permission is prohibited. BABYLON 5 is ® and © Warner Bros PTEN and Babylonian Productions. For newsletter information or for submissions contact: *The Centaurian Sentinel*, c/o Michael Zmuda, 17 Orchard Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579-3040; m.zmuda.genie.geis.com; 914/526-3834. Please include a return envelope with postage if you would like your material returned. "That order stinks!" ★ 2nd



BABYLON 5 PERSONNEL FILE

FOR AUTHORIZED EARTH ALLIANCE MEMBERS ONLY!

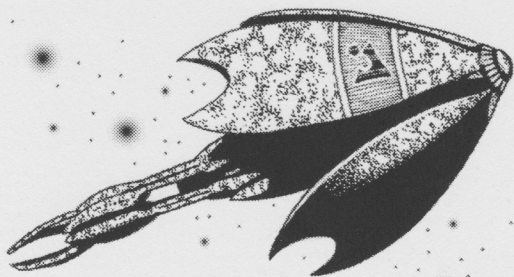


Vorlon Ambassador Kosh Naranek

Profile: Kosh Naranek (Naranek is its given name) is the Vorlon ambassador on Babylon 5. In the past the Vorlons have avoided contact with other alliances and agreed, for reasons unknown, to participate with Babylon 5 and the Earth Alliance. They are methane and carbon dioxide breathers, therefore need to use an encounter suit when dealing with humans.

The first physical contact that humans ever had with the Vorlons was when Kosh arrived on Babylon 5 to take his current position. Upon boarding the station Kosh was poisoned by an imposter Commander Sinclair. The failed assassination attempt put him in the medlab where Dr. Benjamin Kyle and telepath Lyta Alexander tended to him. After Kosh's recovery Kyle and Alexander, the only two humans that are certain to know what a Vorlon actually looks like, were mysteriously and quickly transferred back to Earth Central and haven't been heard from since.

Credentials: The Vorlon ambassador is currently an animatronic, with vocal characterization done by Ardwright Chamberlain. J. Michael Straczynski promises us that during the second season of BABYLON 5 we will see a Vorlon outside of its encounter suit, and in full view.



Psi Corps Officer Talia Winters

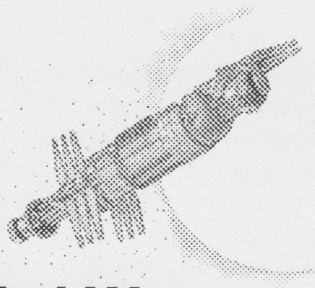
Profile: Talia Winters is a licensed commercial telepath who is stationed on Babylon 5. She has been raised by the Psi Corps and has a P5 rating. A rogue super telepath named Jason Ironheart, who was once her instructor, gave Winters telekenetic powers which she has kept secret and not yet used.

The Psi Corps is in control over the economy, the courts, over matter, over thought itself. They are a quasi-militaristic organization in a time when it is illegal to be a telepath without registering. If born a telepath you have three choices: 1) join the Psi Corps; 2) go to prison; 3) take a drug that inhibits telepathy. Telepaths have been tracked by the Psi Corps for six generations and are regularly used in business dealings. A Psi Cop has a P12 rating. Instructors have P10 ratings. 1/1000 humans are telepathic, 1/10,000 telepaths are telekenetic.

Telepaths are regulated with strict rules set up by the Psi Corps. A telepath peeping into someone's mind or emotions without that person's permission (or that of the next of kin) can likely have his or her license revoked. It's a basic right of privacy. Telepaths are denied access to the gaming tables, and all deals must be on record.

Credentials: Actress Andrea Thompson plays the part of telepath Talia Winters. Her television experience includes a major role on *Falcon Crest*, and parts on *Murder, She Wrote*, *Quantum Leap*, *Baywatch* and *Spenser for Hire*.

Her film credits include *Wall Street*, *Delirious* and *Doin' Time on Planet Earth*.



BABYLON 5 EPISODES

Mind War

In "Mind War" a rogue telepath who proves to be a threat to the Earth Alliance military structure takes refuge on Babylon 5. Jason Ironheart, the super telepath, was Talia Winters' instructor, and lover, at the Psi Corps Training Academy.

Meanwhile, Catherine Sakai is on a mission to Sigma 957. Though it is in a contested sector of space the Narns approve of her journey into the area.

Two Psi Cops, Bester and Kelsey, arrive on Babylon 5 in search of Ironheart. They scan Winters to see if she knows where Ironheart is.

Ironheart makes contact with Winters and explains to her that he was involved in Psi Corp experiments. Through injections the Psi Corps were able to

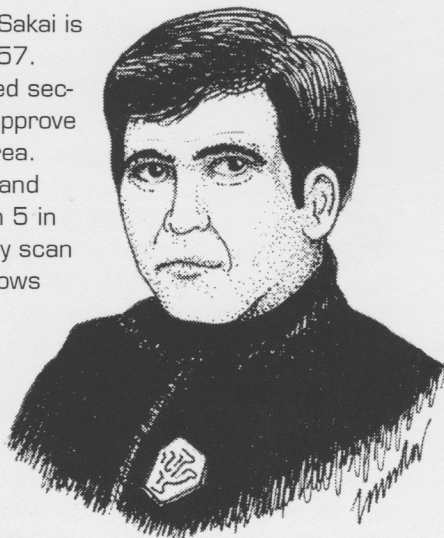
make a P5 telepath into a P10 rating. Their goal was to use them for military purposes – the military wants to scan the enemy, the enemy wants to block the scan, the military wants to cut the block. The next step was to create a telekentic telepath. According to Ironheart half of the existing telekenetics are clinically insane, and it was his goal to create a stable one. The military was interested to use telekenetics in warfare. Through telekinesis they would be able to kill someone by having the victims' carotid arteries pinched, causing death.

Ironheart came to say goodbye to Winters. The injections that he was receiving was taking him beyond what they could imagine. His new powers gave him the ability to actually rearrange particles. It has taken him beyond mind over matter, and has become mind over energy.

Sakai, whose ship becomes disabled, is falling towards Sigma 957. The Narns rescue her. She has encountered a mysterious force, an entity that "walks" near Sigma 957. G'Kar warns her that it should be left alone.

Jason is having mind-quakes and is having trouble keeping his form. He makes contact with Bester and Kelsey and battles them before he becomes "everything." In the memory of their love he leaves Winters a gift – telekenetic powers.

Jason Ironheart is played by William Allen Young, Bester by Walter Koenig, Kelsey by Felicity Waterman. This episode was written by J. Michael Straczynski.



Walter Koenig as Psi Cop Bester.

Deathwalker

In the episode "Deathwalker" Na'Toth is waiting for a ship to dock. While she is standing near the gate she recognizes a freetrader who has just returned from Minbari space. Na'Toth screams out "Deathwalker" and immediately throws her to the ground and beats her unconscious.

During questioning Na'Toth claims that the freetrader, who was on her way to Earth, is actually a Dilgar named Jha'Dur, a member of a race that tortured their captives through viscous experiments. Over thirty years ago Na'Toth's grandfather had escaped from them, his brain had been experimented on. It was Shon-Kar for her to get revenge with this Dilgar. When the Dilgars' sun had gone nova they were all to have died out. Supposedly there were no living Dilgars, and if this one was Jha'Dur then she would be an old woman, not a young one as she appeared to be.

Talia Winters, in the meantime, is working as an assistant to Kosh in business negotiations with a character named Abbut. Winters is asked to scan Abbut's mind and finds that he has no thoughts at all. Kosh and Abbut start their negotiations, speaking in senseless riddles.

The Dilgar's body is healing at an incredible rate in the medlab. The real Jha'Dur had a Warmaster rank and was infamous for leading the Dilgar invasion on the non-aligned sectors in the year 2230. She was trained in biochemical, biogenetic and cyberorganic weaponry. Security Officer Girabaldi enters the medlab with a bag that contains a Dilgar uniform and vials of some type of unknown drug.

G'Kar tells Na'Toth that she must delay her vow of revenge – the Narn's were to negotiate with Jha'Dur for a discovery that she had made that would put the Narns at an advantage to all species. There was little hope of that now.

Senator Hidoshi claims that she is not the Deathwalker and requests that the Dilgar is sent immediately to Earth. He tells Sinclair that all details are on a need to know basis, and that he does not need to know.

Commander Sinclair discusses the drug with Jha'dur and finds out that she has spent her lifetime researching a serum that retards aging and prevents disease. He decides that she is to be smuggled off the station and escorted to Earth in hope that the deaths she caused would have meaning.

Word gets out about the plan and the aliens on Babylon 5 want to put Deathwalker on trial, charging her with experimenting on living beings, the spreading of plagues on colonies to see how long it would take for beings to die, and for the extermination of entire races.

The Babylon 5 Assembly and the League of Non-Aligned Worlds meet to decide if Jha'Dur should be tried on

Babylon 5 for her war crimes. Londo votes no since the Centauri were not involved with her crimes. G'Kar will vote yes if she was to be tried on the Narn Homeworld, but then changes his decision to no when the assembly says no chance. Kosh refuses to participate in the trial. Sinclair votes yes. Lennier abstains since the Minbari militant warrior caste, the Wind Swords, did shelter her. In return the Minbari had received terrible weapons from Jha'Dur during the Earth-Minbari War, and they can't admit to this terrible fact.

A Drozie vessel comes through the jumpgate demanding her extradition, followed by ships from other alien nations, demanding the same. Sinclair speaks with Ambassador Kalika and the ships pull back.

Winters is getting confused as the negotiations between Kosh and Abbut continue. Winter scans Abbut's mind again and sees a vision of herself and a shadowy man who stabs her with a broken bottle – the man is a serial killer that she had done a mind scan on four years ago. At the end of the deal Abbut takes his hat off to pull a data crystal from his brain – he is a Cyberorganic – and hands it to Kosh.

Earth Alliance and the League of Non-Aligned Worlds decide that discovery of Jha'Dur's serum is astounding. It is decided that after the League of Worlds work to process the serum they will put Deathwalker on trail. All of the ships pull back.

Jha'Dur explains, "To live forever, another one must die. You will fall upon one another like wolves . . . You will become us." The main ingredient cannot be synthesized but is taken from living beings before they are killed.

As Jha'Dur is exported from Babylon 5 a Vorlon ship comes through the jumpgate and destroys the craft. Kosh remarks, "You are not ready for immortality."

Winters discusses with Sinclair and Garibaldi the vision she had during the scan. Abbut was actually used to scan Winters. Vorlons, who are leery of telepaths, might use the recording of what she fears the most against her.

This episode stars Sarah Douglas as Jha'Dur, Robin Curtis as Ambassador Kalika and Cosie Costa as Abbut. Written by Lawrence G. DiTillio.

Survivors

In "Survivors" Earth Alliance president Luis Santiago is coming to Babylon 5 to present them with a new fighter wing. As he is approaching the station an explosion rips open the side of a Cobra bay. There is a survivor, Nolan, who is sent to the medlab. Questions arise – was it an accident caused by an inexperienced worker, or could it have been an assassination attempt on the president. Santiago has been getting strong opposition to his stand on alien immigration and trade agreements.

Major Lianna Kemmer of the president's security staff and Security Agent Cutter arrive on the station to inspect the incident. Kemmer turns out to be the daughter of shuttle pilot Frank Kemmer who died while working with

Michael Garibaldi on an ice mining operation on Europa. Garibaldi, who was doing heavy drinking at the time, would spend time with Kemmer and his family when times got rough. As Kemmer was bringing in his shuttle from a run it blew-up as it touched down on a shuttle pad. It was suspected that the pad was rigged to get revenge with Garibaldi who was making a dent in the rackets. The Corp did not want a scandal so they pinned it on Garibaldi's negligence. From that moment on Lianna's spirit died and Garibaldi hit the bottle.

Kemmer asks Nolan if it was an accident. Nolan tells her that it was a bomb, planted by Garibaldi, who had arrested him for trashing an alien shop. Kemmer wants Garibaldi suspended. He relieves his link, side arm and security authorization to Commander Sinclair. His quarters are searched and schematics of the Cobra bay and Centaurian ducats worth 100,000 credits are found.

Garibaldi escapes as he is taken into custody. He goes to Londo for information but can't get into the ambassadorial level. He thinks that the ducats might have been the ones that the Centauri had paid the Narns for scientific information that was lost on Ragesh 3 during the Narn regime – the Narns insisted on being paid in cash. He contacts G'Kar who tells him that all the ducats have been accounted for. Garibaldi asks him for a loan. G'Kar offers him a get-away in exchange for a job with the Narn's. He then tries to get a high-level security card for access to restricted sectors from N'Grath. N'Grath doesn't want to have anything to do with him since he is still a security officer. As he leaves he runs into Da'Gul and two other aliens who beat him for roughing-up Du'Gul in an earlier incident. Garibaldi takes-off for the lower levels where he ends up on a drinking binge.

Sinclair has been ordered to help Kemmer in the investigation and the president is cleared for immediate docking. Homeguard pamphlets and a detonator have been found during an investigation of Nolan's quarters – he is suspected of being involved with a pro-Earth group. Nolan had planted the bomb not realizing that a plasma driver was in use, which had caused vibrations that prematurely set-off the bomb. The assassination attempt was in protest of the president's policies.

Cutter is on his way to scan the docking bay one last time before the president arrives. Garibaldi suspects Cutter of being the person who had planted the items in his quarters and convinces Kemmer to scan it herself since she has the authority. Cutter attacks Kemmer and Garibaldi knocks him out. Explosive charges are discovered on all of the bays doors – Garibaldi contacts Ivanova just in time to abort the drop. It was discovered that 100,000 credits were withdrawn as Centauri ducats from Cutter's Earth account an hour before Garibaldi was framed. Garibaldi and Kemmer make-up before she departs.

This episode stars Elaine Thomas as Lianna Kemmer and Tom Donaldson as Agent Cutter. It was written by Marc Scott Zicree.

By Any Means Necessary

By Any Means Necessary" begins with a Narn transport ship, that is in the process of docking in Babylon 5, colliding in the bay area as it tries to avoid another ship that is being launched. A dock worker is killed in the accident and the cause of the equipment failure is blamed on substandard microchips that were installed. The station's budget, which has been cut because of the general economy, is jeopardizing operational and safety concerns. There is a fear that the dock workers will organize a strike and start calling in "sick". Commander Sinclair asks labor organizer Neeoma Connally to delay the strike until Orin Zento, a negotiator can arrive on Babylon 5.

G'Kar who has been preparing for the Narn holy days of J'Quan is waiting for a shipment of J'Quanes, a plant that the Narns burn as an incense during their ceremonies. Time is running out as J'Quan approaches and G'Kar is getting desperate for the delayed shipment. Londo is the only one on the station that has the plant – he offers it to G'Kar for the insane price of 50,000 commercial credits. Londo was planning to mix the seeds of the plant with alcohol for its hallucinogen effect. Londo decides that he does not want to sell G'Kar the plant, in revenge for the Narn's possession of Ragesh 3.

The workers are complaining that they were made promises of better conditions in the past. Zento arrives and he threatens Sinclair that he will use force to have the workers cooperate – since the workers did not have a written contract they will have to wait until some other time to have their demands fulfilled. The Dockers Guild calls a strike.

G'Kar meets with Sinclair about his situation, explaining that a new plant needs to be acquired before the sunlight rises above the J'Quan Mountain. Sinclair approaches Londo, who refuses to give up the plant. G'Kar has Na'Toth steal a Centauri statue from Londo's quarters as hostage.

Zento and Connally negotiate without progress. Zento is getting permission to evoke the Rush Act. Sinclair is ordered to move in with security by Senate order. Replacement workers are being sent from earth. A riot breaks out and security pulls back. Sinclair finds that Zento will use any means necessary to take control of this situation.

Sinclair gets Earth Central to reallocate 1.3 million credits from Babylon 5's military budget to start upgrades on dockside equipment, and to hire additional dock workers. He declares amnesty for all dock worker who had participated in the strike.

Sinclair meets with Londo and G'Kar. Sinclair has found that J'Quanes is a controlled substance and Londo must hand it over. G'Kar who is upset that it is too late for the ceremonies is reminded by Sinclair that it takes 12.2 light years for sunlight from the Narn Homeworld to reach Babylon 5, so he still has time to preform the ceremony.

Senator Hidoshi warns Sinclair that he has made new enemies by embarrassing Zento.

This episode stars Katy Boyer as Neeoma Connally and John Snyder as Orin Zento. It was written by Kathryn M. Drennan.

an "eggplant" headpiece is needed each time. It takes the make-up artist about one hour just to apply the eyebrows and ears. He mentioned how Mumy jokingly pleaded with Straczynski to get out of wearing the head bone attachment, which was heavy and constantly ungluing. He suggested that when Delenn was breaking out of her cocoon a light from inside would hit him in the head and make the bone fall off.

David didn't have time left after his slide show for a question and answer session – he had to jump over to the autograph area.

Later on in the day at the "No Minimum Bid Auction" he auctioned off a final draft copy of "The Soul Hunter" for \$40.00.



Mira Furlan
and her hair.

David then got back on stage to introduce Mira Furlan. Another surprise . . . he introduced Michael O'Hare instead, who in turn had the honor of Furlan's introduction. As O'Hare stepped up to the microphone the audience gave him a standing ovation.

Furlan felt very comfortable being back in New York City, which was her home before she moved to Los Angeles to work on BABYLON 5. She equated the city to BABYLON 5 as a place where anybody and everybody can find a place to live, which she said is one of the series' main messages. BABYLON 5 is something of a dream in her home country Yugoslavia.

One of the first questions asked was in regard to her transformation in the second season. She replied that it was planned as part of the story arc, and has been taking place since the pilot. It will cause problems for Delenn (including bad-hair days) as they enter the very dark phase.

When asked about the real life transformation of her make-up she replied, "Oh, that question." It still takes her about 2 1/2 hours each episode. When questions were asked about her hair she replied, "Yes, yeah, yeah, the hair. Yes, the question of hair," as if it was a matter of time that it would come up. The hair is real and her own (see photo).

When it comes to relating to her own character she drew the line at taking her character too seriously, but does feel that Delenn's transformation is symbolic of her own life.

She told us that Straczynski constantly asks them for suggestions in the development of their characters, using their own experiences.

When asked to compare Michael O'Hare/Sinclair to Bruce Boxleitner/Sheridan she commented that she would rather not compare the two. "Everybody comes with their life, and with their own experience, their own souls . . . Let's just see the differences." She does find G'Kar the most interesting character and enjoyed working with David Warner on "Grail".

Furlan was asked if she would be satisfied to be identified as Delenn for the rest of her life. She replied that Delenn is a very noble and valuable character, and that she would be completely satisfied to be identified with her.

Farrell was up on stage next. I decided to get on line for Furlan's autograph with about 1/5 of the packed ballroom. To my surprise the line was already over 100 fans strong. It was only a matter of time that the rest of the ballroom would join us. During the 1 1/2 hour wait O'Hare walked by waving to the cheering crowd.

It was a day to be remembered, and the closest that I've come to a BABYLON 5 convention! ★

O'HARE VISITS E-CON

The Big E-Con convention took place in Norfolk, VA, October 28-30. It was an event filled three days with a host of stars attending the activities. They included: James Doohan, Majel Barrett-Roddenberry, Bill Campbell, Michael Ansara, Terry Farrell, and Michael O'Hare. The events planned included workshops, panel discussions, and many question and answer sessions. There was a Halloween party, a masquerade, and fan-written plays. Arne Starr from DC Comics brought some previews of the new *Star Trek: Generations* movie, *StarGate*, and *Interview with a Vampire*.

The *Michael O'Hare Fan Club* traveled from near and far – Rhode Island to Florida – to spend some time with Michael. During the first day of the con, membership doubled. Terry Farrell from *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* became a member on Saturday. She even wore the club t-shirt on Sunday. (They make a great looking couple.) Michael signed autographs at the club table on both Saturday and Sunday. Proceeds from these sessions went to Michael's favorite charity, "Big Brothers of America".

Michael must have been one of the first stars to arrive in Norfolk. His Mom and Dad joined him for many of the sessions. (They are truly delightful people. Mom told us some great stories about Michael, his two brothers and sister. Quite a family.) On Thursday, he was busy meeting fans at our hotel and chatting with people as they asked for an autograph or photo. Looking very different from our beloved Commander Sinclair, with longer hair and occasionally sporting "Clark Kent" glasses, Michael was a real hit with all convention goers. He spent a lot of time with everyone, asking them questions about family and how they liked *BABYLON 5*. On Friday evening, he came to the Halloween party; spent a lot of time with little kids, shaking hands and taking pictures with everyone. One proud father told me the next morning that Michael actually came to their room to see their son. He just couldn't stay up late enough to see Michael but was a big fan. Michael chatted with their son for a while and had a photo taken as well and then the little guy went back to sleep.

Michael had two question and answer sessions at the convention. In both he covered questions about his departure from the series – and mentioned that he had just recorded a new segment. It involved a sequence on the vid-phone and he recited some of the dialogue. The conversation was to Garibaldi and mentioned that there was trouble on Minbari

and that the opposition knew more than they should know about his activities there. Michael didn't give anything away. He is very loyal to Joe Straczynski and doesn't want anything to spoil the seven years of work Joe has put into the series. Everyone wanted to know if he would be back, and Michael said that was up to Joe Straczynski. Michael talked about his childhood, growing up in Chicago, how his father forced him to get into football, instead of staying in his room and reading, working on Broadway. He even sang "Danny Boy" on Sunday. Wasn't bad, either.

Michael conducted an acting workshop on Sunday morning. It was great. He explained that he had learned a lot from an acting coach by the name of Sandy Meisner. Techniques concentrated on opening up feelings, letting go a little. Michael said that dialogue would come later, after people learned to express themselves.

Michael had a session with the Fan Club later in the day. He was fascinated that he "had a fan club". We talked about a lot of things. He answered questions about what he does in his spare time – reads, writes (short, funny stories). He said that his mother had wanted him to be a writer and that this was probably the first time she knew that he was writing. (He said that he uses another name in his writing and has had several items published.) Michael has strong emotional ties to family and mentioned his son, Ben. (Ben didn't come with him; he preferred going to the Halloween dance with his girlfriend.) All in all, it was a wonderful hour.

As I left the convention late Sunday afternoon, I thought about everything I had seen and heard. I had met people from GEnie and America On Line that I had only been words on a computer screen until this weekend. I had talked with Michael O'Hare and felt lucky to have met a man who truly likes people and doesn't have an ego the size of the Empire State Building. (It was wonderful watching him with children. He would drop down on his knees so that he would not tower over them. He seemed to be as fascinated by them as they were with him.) He reminded me of heroes from my childhood. I thought that this was the sort of guy I would want my kids to look up to and want to emulate. Commander Sinclair is a great character, but Michael O'Hare is a wonderful person. ★

Sandra Bruckner

➤ The address of *The Official Michael O'Hare Fan Club* is P.O. Box 6541, Edgemere, Maryland 21219.

BABYLON 5 SIGHTINGS

J. Michael Straczynski, Harlan Ellison, Lawrence DiTillio, and Peter Jurasik attended LosCon in Burbank, CA, November 25-27.

Michael O'Hare appeared at the November 12 meeting of the Science Fiction Association of Bergen County. The evening started off with a viewing of "Deathwalker" and proceeded to a question and answer session hosted by Anthony Tellado of *Sci Fi Talk*. Sinclair spoke for about 1 ½ hours on *BABYLON 5* and his life experiences.

Jerry Doyle and John Iacovelli are scheduled to appear at Con-Dor 95, February 24-26, 1995. Contact: Con-Dor 95, P.O. Box 15771, San Diego, CA 92175, or carla@slc.cts.com.

Straczynski is to appear at Iowa State University in the spring, and O'Hare is to appear in London next year. No further information at this time ★



Michael O'Hare joking around in New Jersey. ★

According to a post made by J. Michael Straczynski on GEnie on November 25 the overnight ratings and demographics for BABYLON 5 are improving. "Overall, B5 comes in #3 in ALL syndicated dramatic series, as opposed to talk shows and game shows, which are in a separate category and fill up the upper echelons of the syndie ratings. Number 3 out of 17 dramatic series is VERY good placement, and PTEN is very encouraged by this, very pleased." *Star Trek: Deep Space Nine* is #1, with *Baywatch* in #2.

Also posted on GEnie by Straczynski are the following second season episodes to watch for that are important to the storyline, "Points of Departure," "Revelations," a piece of "The Geometry of Shadows," but not all of it, portions of "The Long Dark," "Gropos," and "A Spider in the Web," and all of "A Race Through Dark Places" and "The Coming of Shadows," with the latter two of critical importance."

Other second season episodes in the making are "The Customer is Always Right" (which deals with the issue of

wether Psi Corp members can marry), "The Very Long Night of Susan Ivanova"; and "Unnatural Selection".

Harlan Ellison's "Midnight in the Sunken Cathedral" and "Demon on the Run," as well as David Gerrold's "Target: Unknown" and "Metaphors and Body Counts," originally intended to be first episodes, are still possibilities for future productions.

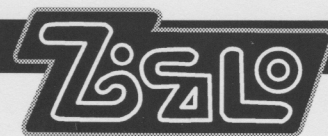
The first issue of DC Comics' BABYLON 5 series have arrived on schedule.

BABYLON 5 is currently being shown throughout Europe (including the U.K., Greece, Italy, France, and Germany), Australia, the Philippines, Trinidad, and Singapore. Meanwhile some parts of the United States are still BABYLON 5-less. Write your local station in support of the show and encourage renewal.

Our heartfelt condolences go out to Christy Marx who has lost her husband, Peter Ledger, last month in an automobile accident. ★

Mykl

THE EXCHANGE



MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

The Centaurian Sentinel

The Centaurian Sentinel is a newsletter for people who appreciate J. Michael Straczynski's television series **BABYLON 5**, and a forum for sci-fi fans. *The Centaurian Sentinel* is sanctioned by J. Michael Straczynski.

Membership includes: 12 Monthly Newsletters; Membership Card illustrated with a color illustration of the Babylon 5 station; a **FREE** listing in The Exchange section (20 words or less). All members also have an opportunity to have their **BABYLON 5** related artwork and articles (no stories please) published in *The Centaurian Sentinel*.

Annual dues are \$12 for U.S. and Canadian memberships, and \$24 for overseas memberships. Please make U.S. funds payable to Michael Zmuda. If you have any questions send them to *The Centaurian Sentinel*, c/o Michael Zmuda, 17 Orchard Road, Putnam Valley, NY 10579-3040; 914/526-3834. Online Address: m.zmuda@GEnie.geis.com

ENTER THE OMEGA ZONE

TELEVISION/MOVIE STAR PHOTOS
PHOTOS AVAILABLE ON NEW AND CLASSIC SHOWS

SERVING COLLECTORS SINCE 1974

SEND \$2.00 FOR STILL CATALOG

THE OMEGA ZONE
258 W. 15TH STREET
NEW YORK, NY 10011
(212) 677-9375

OPEN MONDAY-SATURDAY 12:00-8:00 PM
8TH AVENUE SUBWAY TO 14TH STREET
EXIT AT 15TH STREET EXIT

